

SENATE BILL 592

By Tate

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 1, Part 2; Title 49, Chapter 1, Part 3; Title 49, Chapter 2, Part 2; Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 12; Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 4 and Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 60, relative to graduation requirements.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 60, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

(a) To graduate from a public high school in this state, a student shall complete at least seventy-five (75) hours of service-learning during the student's high school career.

(b) The state board shall adopt service-learning standards and guidelines for service-learning programs that promote:

- (1) Projects that address recognized needs in the community;
- (2) Achievement of curricular objectives;
- (3) Reflection by students throughout a service-learning experience;
- (4) Development of student responsibility;
- (5) Establishment of community partnerships;
- (6) Advance planning of service-learning projects that, with community, student, and teacher input, continuously assess progress toward specific objectives; and

(7) Civic engagement of students by equipping them with necessary knowledge and skills.

(c)

(1) LEAs shall design programs for student service-learning that comply with the state board's standards.

(2) The department shall approve locally designed programs for service-learning before LEAs implement the programs.

SECTION 2. The state board of education is authorized to promulgate rules to effectuate the purposes of this act. All rules shall be promulgated in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.